



**TESTIMONY**

**OF THE**

**D.C. COMMISSION ON AGING**

**ON THE OFFICE ON AGING**  
**PROPOSED FY 2009 BUDGET REQUEST**

**BEFORE THE**

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**  
**AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**THE HONORABLE CAROL SCHWARTZ, CHAIR**

**PRESENTED BY**  
**JACQUELINE C. ARGUELLES, CHAIRPERSON**

**IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**APRIL 22, 2008**

**10:00 AM**

**GOOD MORNING CHAIRPERSON SCHWARTZ AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS. MY NAME IS JACQUELINE C. ARGUELLES, AND I AM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE D.C. COMMISSION ON AGING. I AM PLEASED TO APPEAR AGAIN BEFORE YOU AND THE COMMITTEE THIS MORNING ON BEHALF OF THE D.C. COMMISSION ON AGING AND I THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE OFFICE ON AGING FY 2009 PROPOSED BUDGET. WE SUPPORT THE BUDGET BECAUSE IT WILL ENHANCE THOSE SERVICES THAT ARE CRUCIAL TO SENIORS SURVIVAL.**

**AS YOU KNOW, D.C. LAW 1-24 ESTABLISHED THE COMMISSION ON AGING TO SERVE AS AN ADVOCATE FOR OLDER WASHINGTONIANS AND TO ACT AS AN ADVISORY GROUP TO THE MAYOR, THE OFFICE ON AGING, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL, AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE IN MATTERS CONCERNING OUR OLDER RESIDENTS.**

**NOW THAT WE HAVE A FULL COMMISSION WE CAN MORE  
READILY ADDRESS THOSE ISSUES WHICH IMPACT OUR  
SENIORS IN THIS CITY.**

**IN 2009 THE COMMISSION WILL:**

- **CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE AND GIVE VALUABLE AND  
INSIGHTFUL PUBLIC TESTIMONY REGARDING  
PUBLIC UTILITIES.**
- **ADDRESS RATE INCREASES, METRO SERVICE  
CHANGES AND OTHER ISSUES THAT IMPACT  
SENIORS.**
- **GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT THE AGING AND  
DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC).**
- **HOST VARIOUS DC AGENCIES AT COMMISSION  
MEETINGS TO DISCUSS AND ADDRESS SERVICE  
ISSUES AS THEY IMPACT THE SENIOR POPULATION.**

- **PROVIDE AND ENHANCE THE ROLE OF THE MINI COMISSIONS ON AGING, STRENGTHENING OUR INTERGENERATIONAL INTERACTIONS WITH DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS (DCPS).**
- **INCREASE SENIOR AWARENESS OF PROPOSED LIFESTYLE CHANGES, I. E. THE DIGITAL TV CHANGE THAT WILL OCCUR IN FEBRUARY 2009.**
- **CONTINUE TO HOLD MONTHLY MEETINGS IN THE DIFFERENT WARDS TO ENSURE THAT ALL SENIOR CONCERNS ARE ADDRESSED.**
- **PARTICIPATE IN PLANNING OF THE GRAND OPENING OF THE WARD ONE SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER.**
- **ASSIST THE OFFICE ON AGING IN DEVELOPING A NEW STATE PLAN ON AGING FOR 2010- 2012**

- **ADVOCATE AND SUPPORT THE FUNDING FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE WARD SIX SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER.**
- **CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE FOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT WILL PROVIDE SENIORS THE OPPORTUNITY TO "AGE IN PLACE" IN THEIR OWN HOMES, WITH THE NECESSARY SUPPORT OF THEIR FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY.**

**MADAME CHAIR, WE REQUEST THAT THE BUDGET REQUEST SUBMITTED BY THE OFFICE ON AGING BE APPROVED.**

**I AM AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT YOU MAY NEED.**